



Our On-Site Partners

- Association of Haitian Women (AFAB)
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Boston Police Department / Family Justice Division
 - Crimes Against Children Unit
 - Domestic Violence (DV) Unit
 - MA Human Trafficking Task Force
- Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Suffolk County
 - The CAC's On-site Partners:
 - The Child Witness to Violence Project of Boston Medical Center
 - MA Department of Social Services
 - MA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
 - MA Pediatric Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (PediSANE)
 - The Trauma Center at JRI
- Casa Myrna Vazquez
- Dress for Success Boston
- Finex House / Kim's Project
- Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project
- GLBT DV Attorney Program
- Link Up Education Network / Noah's Ark Foster Care Program
- MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers
- MA Department of Transitional Assistance DV Unit
- The Network/ La Red
- Suffolk County DA's Office / Family Protection and Sexual Assault Unit

Boston Public Health Commission to Lead FJC Mayor Menino Expands City's Commitment to Service Center

Family Justice Centers are partnerships in which city and county government can play a critical role. Although many, including ours, have been launched with Federal start-up grants through the Office of Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice, FJCs across the country benefit enormously from ongoing commitments of leadership and resources provided by local governments.

On August 17, the City of Boston made just such a commitment to our FJC. On that day, Mayor Thomas M. Menino announced that the Family Justice Center (FJC) of Boston would become a program of the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). This exciting development promises us the resources and the institutional support that we will need to strengthen and sustain our collaborative project well into the future.

"The Family Justice Center is an ongoing piece of our strategy to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. With the Boston Public Health Commission's involvement, victims and their families will have better access to a wide array of support services all in one central location," Mayor Menino said.

Under the BPHC's leadership, the FJC will remain a collaboration of diverse nonprofit and governmental partner organizations working together

delivery model that is organized around meeting the needs of victims of violence and their families," said the BPHC's new Executive Director, Dr. Barbara

"We welcome the opportunity to join this important community resource with our existing violence prevention and intervention programs. This will enhance the level of services available to all Boston residents."

under one roof. We will continue to focus on enhancing access to victim services and fostering collaboration, while taking fullest advantage of our new relationship to the BPHC's business services, program and policy departments, as well as its powerful ability to communicate directly with the public.

"The Boston Public Health Commission appreciates the opportunity to work with others to strengthen a coordinated service



Photo courtesy of the Boston Globe

Dr. Barbara Ferrer

Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission

Ferrer. "We welcome the opportunity to join this important community resource with our existing violence prevention and intervention programs. This will enhance the level of services available to all Boston residents."

Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis also welcomed the decision, saying, "Our partnership with the BPHC and Mayor Menino signifies a significant step in our ongoing efforts to break the cycle of violence that affects many families in our community. The Family Justice Center represents an innovative approach to more effectively addressing the needs of victims."

Family Justice Center of Boston

Open for service

**Monday to Friday
9:00 am –5:00 pm**

Individual FJC Partner hours vary.

**989 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston MA 02215
617 779-2100**

**www.cityofboston.gov/fjc
email: fjc@cityofboston.gov**

FJC Partner Profile: Martha Vasconcellos, MA Alliance of Portuguese Speakers



Organization: Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)

Name / Position:
Martha Vasconcellos,
Domestic Violence Advocate

Organizational Mission / Vision:

MAPS' mission is to improve the lives of Portuguese-speaking families from Massachusetts and help them become contributing, active participants in American society while maintaining strong ethnic identity and a sense of community. MAPS works with and for the Brazilian, Cape Verdean, Portuguese and other communities to increase access and remove barriers to health, education and social services through direct services,

advocacy, leadership and community development.

Why is MAPS an on-site partner at the Family Justice Center of Boston?

MAPS became an on-site partner at the Family Justice Center of Boston due to the increase in the Brazilian immigrant population in the Boston area. Brazilians are Latinos but not Hispanic. Even being able to understand and communicate in Spanish, Brazilians come from a Portuguese linguistic and cultural background. (Brazil was a Portuguese colony from 1500 until 1822.) Because part of the FJC's mission is to better serve diverse communities, MAPS fits within its mission.

How does your partnership at the FJC help to advance your organization's mission?

It is important for MAPS to be in partnership with the FJC because we can provide social services such as domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and education as well as child advocacy to Brazilians, Cape Verdean Creole and Portuguese-speaking clientele who live in Brighton, Allston, other parts of Boston and Brookline.

What are the biggest challenges that MAPS must overcome to advance its mission?

Expand our funding and support base so that we can continue to grow programs that meet the needs of our growing number of clients.

What do you do for MAPS?

I provide outreach, advocacy, individual assistance, case man-

agement and counseling, referrals, translation and interpretation, and related services to Portuguese-speaking domestic violence victims in the Boston area.

What motivates you to show up every day?

Someone who decides to work for a private non-profit organization is motivated by the idea of helping others to achieve their basic needs, psychological bal-

ful because when I am not able to find help for our clients on my own I call my FJC colleagues. They are able to understand my immediate needs because we have been working and struggling together in the same facility. We know each other and it facilitates our jobs. My colleagues do their best as FJC Partner agencies to help solve clients' problems and remove barriers to service.

Do you have any FJC success stories to share?

It was about 7:00 pm one night, and my MAPS cell phone was still on when I got a call from a client. It was an emergency situation. The client had to leave the house immediately to save her and her children's lives. I called a hotline and asked for a vacancy in a shelter. I could not find anything available, so I called an FJC Partner, Cherie Jimenez of Finex House/Kim's Project. Cherie helped us find space in a shelter and my client and her children were able to sleep in peace.

On another day, at 4:30 pm, I received a call from a Brazilian woman who lived in Brighton. She had been bitten and sexually assaulted by her partner / boyfriend after an argument. She was scared to death. The woman was out on the street, spoke no English and had nowhere to go when she called me at the FJC. I gave her the address and she came in.

We went to the second floor of the FJC to speak with a detective in the BPD's Domestic Violence Unit. With the help of the police, we found the perpetrator at 7:30

"Being an immigrant with language barriers and without social and legal support is most of the time an enormous challenge."

ance, an education and financial independence. Being an immigrant with language barriers and without social and legal support is most of the time an enormous challenge.

What motivates me to show up every day to do my job is to see my clients' hopeless and desperate faces when they first come to an appointment turn into smiling and trusting faces over time. What motivates my career choice is the possibility of contributing to a less violent and unequal society. It is a wonderful motivation to walk together with people in their growing process as human beings.

How has collaboration with other FJC partners helped you in your work?

The collaboration with other FJC partners has been very help-

Martha Vasconcellos

works on-site at the FJC

Mondays 1-5pm

FJC Office: (617) 779-2131

MAPS Office: (617) 864-7600

email: mvasconcellos@maps-inc.org

www.maps-inc.org

FJC Conference Room Dedicated

Partners Honor Deputy Superintendent Margot Hill

On July 26, FJC Partners recognized the leadership of Deputy Superintendent Margot Hill by naming the FJC's main conference room in her honor. The dedication of the newly-refurbished Hill Conference and

In the first eight months of this year, the FJC hosted nearly 200 workshops and training activities that reached as many as 3256 participants.

Training Room was made by Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley during a luncheon celebrating Deputy Hill's retirement from the Boston Police Department (BPD). Deputy Hill led the BPD's Family Justice Division and was one of the earliest and most passionate advocates for creating a Family Justice Center in Boston.

The FJC serves two primary constituencies: (1) Victims of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault and (2) the diverse community of professionals that dedicate themselves to serving victims and to holding perpetrators accountable. We open our doors and our multiple large meeting rooms to any organization whose efforts help advance our mission and vision (see page 5). The use of FJC space is offered free of charge to those who qualify.

In the first eight months of this year, the FJC hosted nearly 200



Deputy Superintendent Hill (L) and Lieutenant Detective Wilson look on as District Attorney Conley reads the Hill Room dedication plaque.

workshops and training activities that reached as many as 3256 participants.

Activities benefitted professionals, volunteers and community members. They included personal safety and self defense courses, offered by Project Impact (www.impactboston.com);

training on evidence-based prosecution of domestic violence offenders, provided through the President's Family Justice Center Initiative; and a workshop for clinicians entitled "Trauma-Informed Treatment with Sexually Exploited Adolescent Girls" offered by the Home for Little Wanderers and

the Children's Trauma Recovery Foundation.

To learn more about hosting an activity or an event at the FJC, please contact Richard Amory
617 779-2152
richard.amory@cityofboston.gov

FJC Partner Profile: Martha Vasconcellos

► continued from Page 2

pm. The abuser was arrested and later deported to Brazil and, with much help from Deputy Superintendent Margot Hill [former Commander of the Family Justice Division at the FJC], my client was approved for a U-Visa.

What is a U-Visa?

The U-visa is designed for noncitizen crime victims who

have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse from criminal activity and who agree to cooperate with government officials investigating or prosecuting this activity. U-visa holders are authorized to live and work in the U.S.

Unfortunately, U-visas cannot be issued until the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issues regulations making them

available. Until then, no one can receive an actual U-visa. In the meantime, DHS has made an interim form of relief available. It is referred to as "U nonimmigrant status interim relief" or "U interim relief."

Learn more about U-Visas:

www.womenslaw.org/immigrantsUvisa.htm

FJC Partner Appreciation: Dress for Success Boston

By Cherie Jimenez and Antoinette Lasseur, Finex House/Kim's Project

We at Kim's Project want to offer special thanks to our FJC Partner Dress for Success Boston.

Not only are they located conveniently down the hall from us, they have always been willing to accommodate our last minute requests for

professional clothing.

Most of our referrals are young women who have "aged out" of foster care or the juvenile justice systems and appropriate support can make a big difference in their lives.

Young adults caught in

abuse and exploitation that age out of care with neither adoptive nor biological families to support them face insurmountable barriers in their efforts to be successfully independent. So it is no surprise that a lot of these young people are introduced to us either through the Boston Police Department's Human Trafficking Unit or the Teen Prostitution Prevention Project (of the Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County), both on-site partners at the FJC.

This is a particularly vulnerable population and accessing services—even a simple phone intake for a safe shelter—is a challenge, not to mention navigating various governmental systems. So when things "work" we are especially happy since success for these young adults does not come easily.

Dress For Success has always been willing to extend extra kindness and understanding when it comes to those last minute job interviews, especially since legal employment will help prevent future involvement with the criminal justice system for many of the young women we meet.

So thanks again to Dorian, Kim and Nneka for all of your help!



Antoinette Lasseur
Victim Advocate



Kim Todd
Executive Director

Dress for Success Boston

Dress for Success is an international nonprofit organization that helps women gain economic independence. The organization's Boston area affiliate is located at the Family Justice Center of Boston.

617 779-2116

boston@dressforsuccess.org
www.dressforsuccess.org



Dorian Golub
Office Manager



Nneka Jenkins
Operations Manager

Finex House

Finex House offers a range of supportive services addressing both the immediate and ongoing needs of domestic violence victims.

617 288-1054

www.geocities.com/finexhouse

Kim's Project

Kim's Project is a program specifically for women victimized by or at risk for sexual exploitation, violence and prostitution. The goals of our programs are to provide positive alternatives, especially for young adults, ensure their safety, and raise awareness since engaging in prostitution, or related activities, is often about poverty, race and gender inequality.

Cherie Jimenez, Coordinator

617 779-2133

kimsprojectfjc@yahoo.com



Mission

The Family Justice Center (FJC) of Boston fosters collaboration in service to victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. We provide a safe and welcoming environment where individuals and families benefit from the availability of services offered by diverse nonprofit and governmental partner organizations. We are committed to complimenting and enhancing the health of victim service organizations throughout Boston. As a hub of cooperative activity, the FJC facilitates continuous learning and serves as a resource center for professional development. We strive to coordinate violence intervention and prevention services that are culturally responsive and accessible to all victims.

Vision

The Family Justice Center of Boston envisions justice for victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Justice for victims will mean that:

Police, prosecutors and service providers collaborate closely and offer coordinated responses which minimize additional trauma and promote the safety, dignity, well-being and rights of all.

Law enforcement and criminal justice practices reflect a deep understanding of the dynamics of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault.

Useful information about available services and support reaches everyone who needs it.

Governmental and community-based organizations are culturally responsive; provide appropriate, accessible and equitable services to all who need them; and are accountable to the communities that they serve.

There are no gaps in service or “cracks in the system”.

Victims are respected and are never blamed for the violence and abuse.

Child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault are not socially tolerated.

Rates of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault are reduced until we are able to stop these crimes entirely.

Leadership

The Family Justice Center (FJC) of Boston is a program of the Boston Public Health Commission. An initiative of Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley, the FJC is also supported by The Family Justice Center of Boston, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization.

Events/Opportunities/Resources

Noah's Ark Foster Care Program Underway

The Link Up Education Network seeks to increase awareness about the relationship between animal abuse and violence toward people, and to develop programs to reduce violence toward both people and animals by working as a coalition of organizations and individuals.

The Noah's Ark Foster Care Program had its first volunteer training in June and now has several foster care homes



ready to help provide temporary care for pets whose owners are leaving a domestic violence situation. We are seeking to meet organizations that might find these services useful in order to discuss the program, its parameters and how we can help.

Below are a few key notes about the program.

- This is an all-volunteer program, so availability and timing of services depends on volunteers' availability and notice.
- We will work with domestic violence service providers, not directly with the victims. Initially, we will be working with organizations affiliated with the Family Justice Center of Boston.
- The more notice we have, the more likely a placement can be made. This allows us to get vaccination history, behavior profile, etc., to make a suitable placement.
- Initial placements are for 30 days. Extensions may be requested, but not guaranteed.
- Placements may be in foster homes, veterinary clinics, shelters or other boarding facilities.
- Due to safety concerns, victims may not visit with their pets. They may get updates on the pets through their advocate who can get updates through the program.
- Victims will be required to fill out a form documenting she or he is the owner of the pet.
- We are not able to work with aggressive animals.

Our website with more information can be found at:

www.LinkUpEducationNetwork.org

Please contact us at (617) 343-6408 or at info@LinkUpEducationNetwork.org.

Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County

Seminar Series

Preventing Violence through Parent Support Services: Parental Stress Line & Anonymous Parent Support Groups

Claudia Euler, Director of Program Operations,
Parents Helping Parents

Nancy Connolly, Director of Program Planning
& Evaluation, Parents Helping Parents

This presentation will highlight the philosophy and therapeutic model used by Parents Helping Parents in its anonymous, mutual support parenting groups and on the Parental Stress Line, a 24 hour helpline for parents. Through role play and discussion, attendees will learn about the use of crisis telephone counseling and the techniques of reflective listening and positive regard. Presenters will use case vignettes and the stories of parents involved to illustrate the benefits of providing services on an anonymous basis including the development of parent leadership.

Thursday October 11, 2007

9:30am-11am

Northeastern University

360 Huntington Avenue

Curry Center: Rooms 442,444 & 448

Take the Green Line to Northeastern or
the Orange Line to Ruggles. Parking is available at the
Renaissance Park garage, 788 Columbus Avenue

**For additional information: Contact the
Children's Advocacy Center at 617.779.2146
or cac@suf.state.ma.us**

Co-sponsored by center for Community Health,
Education, Research, and Services (CCHERS)

**The CAC Seminar Series is offered free of
charge and no pre-registration is required.**

Services Now Available

Advocacy and Counseling

for Survivors of Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault

Advocates and counselors can talk with you about your experiences, help you explore your options, identify support services, consider whether or not you want to seek help from the police and /or District Attorney's Office and find ways to keep yourself and your children safe.

Boston Police Department/ Family Justice Division

Police detectives investigate reported crimes involving domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault. Police Advocates are available on-site to make referrals, to explain police procedures, and to provide safety planning, with or without a report to the police.

Children's and Youth Services

Staff from the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Suffolk County and its partner agencies can help with crisis intervention, information and referrals, forensic interviews and specialized medical exams, trauma evaluation and counseling, and victim support and advocacy for children, teens and their families.

Civil Legal Assistance

for Survivors of Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault

An attorney can provide legal assistance and/or referrals to help with restraining orders, family law (custody, visitation, child and spousal support, divorce and paternity), housing, education, privacy, employment, welfare advice and immigration issues.

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

Prosecutors are available to talk with you about court cases. Victim Witness Advocates can answer questions about the criminal justice process, restraining orders, victim rights information, safety planning and referrals to community resources.

Other Supportive Services

Dress for Success Boston
FJC Child Care Service
MA Dept. of Transitional Assistance
Noah's Ark Foster Care Program

Visit the FJC

The FJC is located near the intersection of Commonwealth Ave. and Babcock St., one block west of BU's Agganis Arena and next door to the MATCH School.

Parking: Metered parking is available on the street. Ask about special parking for victims at the front desk.

By the "T": Take the Green Line "B" train (Boston

College) to the Pleasant St. or the Babcock St. stop; both are less than one block from the FJC.

On the MBTA Bus: Take any of the following bus routes to Kenmore Square: 8, 57, 60, 65, 8A. At Kenmore, take the outbound "B" train (see T directions above) or take the 57 Bus towards Wintertown Yard. Get off at the Brighton Ave. and Commonwealth Ave. stop (by Shaw's Supermarket).

FJC Staff Directory

To speak with an FJC Partner organization or for general information, please call the main number: (617) 779-2100. Our reception staff, **Ellena Haile** and **Verlana Morales**, will be glad to help you.

For information about the FJC's child care service, please contact:

Nancy Reyes, Child Care Specialist (617) 779-2143 nancy.reyes@cityofboston.gov

To make a financial or in-kind contribution to the FJC, for inquiries related to outreach, communications, use of the FJC facility or volunteer / internship opportunities, and for general information, please contact: **Richard Amory, Assistant Development Director** (617) 779-2152 richard.amory@cityofboston.gov

To inquire about potential partnerships and other opportunities for collaboration, please contact: **Susan Goldfarb, Interim Director** (617) 779-2149 susan.goldfarb@state.ma.us

The FJC is now online!

Visit us on the
City of Boston website at:

www.cityofboston.gov/fjc

You may also select
Family Justice Center
from the

Select a Department menu on the
City of Boston home page.

Family Justice Center of Boston

Open for service

Monday to Friday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Individual FJC Partner hours vary.

989 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston MA 02215

617 779-2100

www.cityofboston.gov/fjc
email: fjc@cityofboston.gov